

71 group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4 and degenerate codon equivalents thereof.

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72 67. (Twice Amended). A purified nucleic acid encoding an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:16 and fragments thereof.

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70. (Amended). A method of detecting a presence of a target polynucleotide in a test sample, the method comprising the steps of:

73 (a) contacting a test sample with at least one reagent polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5 and degenerate codon equivalents thereof; and

(b) detecting a presence of the target polynucleotide in the test sample.

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72. (Amended). A method for detecting an amplicon in a test sample taken from a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a test sample from a patient;

74 (b) performing reverse transcription with at least one primer in order to produce cDNA;

(c) amplifying the cDNA obtained from step (b) using sense and antisense primers to obtain an amplicon;

(d) detecting a presence of the amplicon in a test sample;

wherein the primers utilized in steps (b) and (c) are selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5 and degenerate codon equivalents thereof.

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75. (Amended). A method of detecting a target polynucleotide in a test sample taken from a patient, the method comprising the steps of:

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- (a) obtaining a test sample from a patient;
  - (b) contacting the test sample with at least one first oligonucleotide as a sense primer and with at least one second oligonucleotide as an anti-sense primer and amplifying to obtain a first stage reaction product;
  - (c) contacting the first stage reaction product with at least one third oligonucleotide to obtain a second stage reaction product, with the proviso that the at least one third oligonucleotide is located 3' to the first and second oligonucleotides utilized in step (b) and is complementary to the first stage reaction product; and
  - (d) detecting the second stage reaction product as an indication of a presence of the target polynucleotide,

wherein the oligonucleotides utilized in steps (b) and (c) are selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5 and degenerate codon equivalents thereof.

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79. (Amended). A test kit comprising:  
a container containing at least one polynucleotide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5 and degenerate codon equivalents thereof.

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